tech.mit.edu

Volume 131, Number 58



WEATHER, p. 2

SAT: 43°F | 23°F Mostly sunny



Friday, December 9, 2011

Block meal plan for IAP

Maseeh will stay open

Bruno B.F. Faviero

This Independent Activities Period (IAP), MIT will be offering an optional "block meal plan" to students to fill the gap in service between the regular meal plan offered each semester.

Options include 20-, 30-, 40-, and 50-meal plans that cost \$242, \$342, \$428, and \$486, respectively, and the meals can be used in any combination of brunches and dinners. Brunch will be served from 10:30 a.m. to 1:30 a.m., and dinner from 5:30 p.m. to 8 p.m.

There will be 52 meals served from Jan. 9 through Feb. 3, seven days a week, in Maseeh's Howard Dining Hall, which will be the only dining hall open during IAP. Carry-out and sick meals (both of which have to be ordered in advance) will still be offered, though there will be no Kosher meals or to-go boxes, according to Campus Dining. Students can still swipe in only once per meal period.

Howard was chosen to be the only dining hall open to "narrow operations to keep cost down," said Assistant Director for Campus Dining Michael Myers.

The times and options were chosen based on students' IAP schedules, a survey by the Undergraduate Association, and the thought that a single brunch period offers both lunch and breakfast options, allowing "students to get a chance to get a good solid breakfast," said Myers. He also said that providing "good service at the lowest possible price" is a priority for Campus Dining.

Some students find the plan convenient, and others see it as unnecessary and expensive.

Jennifer B. Plotkin '15 and Samuel G. Cannon '15, two Maseeh residents, said they were getting the plan because of the convenience of the dining hall. "I need food," said Cannon, "and the meal plan is very convenient for me."

Victor D. Pontis '15, a Baker resident, said, "The amount of dollars per meal is extremely high. Right now on the meal plan ... it costs me about \$12 per meal I could get really good food with \$12 per meal."

"Even if I get cereal for breakfast and treat myself to a nice dinner every night I would still be saving money," added Angela Q. Zhang '15.

Alan A. Diaz-Romero '15, an East Campus freshman, had a simple reason for not choosing the meal plan: "It's cheaper to buy your own groceries," he said.

Myers said that it is hard to forecast participation due to the uncertainty in some students' IAP schedules and that this IAP's meal plan will be a "pilot program," serving as a benchmark for future IAP meal

Registration is open until Jan. 19 at http://dining. mit.edu/meal-plans/iapmealplan. After enrolling, only one cancellation or change of meal plan can be made until Ian. 6.

IAP MEAL PLAN

31 days, brunch and dinner served





JOHN A. HAWKINSON—THE TECH

Architect Toshiko Mori presents her design for 22 Windsor Street (inset top right) to the Cambridge Planning Board. It is the second new building within Novartis' new campus on the east side of Mass. Ave. Maya Lin is designing 181 Mass. Ave., inset bottom right. See article, page 13.

Khan represents MIT mission

How are commencement speakers selected?

By Ethan A. Solomon

EDITOR IN CHIEF

Salman A. Khan '98 founder of the Khan Academy and MIT's 146th commencement keynote speaker - has found a new popularity at his alma mater. The Tech's Tuesday article on Khan's selection as commencement speaker had been shared on Facebook 453 times as of yesterday evening. But where did the idea to select Khan, the youngest commencement speaker in at least 30 years, come from?

There are two major stages in the speaker selection

First, a group of students and faculty from the Commencement Committee form a subcommittee that creates a list of 10-20 potential commencement speakers, unranked. Next, the list is given to President Susan J. Hockfield, who makes the final call. Hockfield may pick someone who does not appear on the subcommittee's

The subcommittee is charged with finding speaker candidates who "resonate with MIT's mission and message," said Nathaniel S. Fox '12, senior class president and Commencement Committee member. Candidates cannot be "just entertainers," said Fox, unless they make other notable or significant contributions to society. Entertainers are often suggested by students, he added, who want "big brand names."

President Hockfield is "ultimately the driving factor" in speaker selection, Fox

Khan, Page 12

IN SHORT

End of term evaluations are available online at http://web.mit.edu/subjectevaluation. They close on December 16 at noon. Don't forget to give feedback!

James Sherley's appeal in his law**suit** to stop stem cell research has had a date set for oral argument. It will be March 23 in Washington, DC.

Michael W. Howard '86 has been named MIT's new vice president for finance. He has 20 years of experience in finance. He began as VP on Decem-

Adel F. Sarofim SM '57, ScD '62, professor emeritus in chemical engineering, passed away on December 4. He

Harold Somers Mickley ScD'46, died on December 3. He was 93. Mickley was a professor and a former chair of the MIT faculty. Due to Mickley's wishes, there will be no memorial service or calling hours.

Send news information and tips to news@tech.mit.edu.

Will Nightline be replaced?

New service in works

By Derek Chang

ASSOCIATE NEWS EDITOR

Up until the spring of 2010, distressed students had a place to call for peer support from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. every night of the term. The anonymous callers spoke to Nightline, a student-run nd student-staffed peer-to-peer counseling, information, and support service that was originally advised by Student Support Services (S³). Nightline closed last year when the group stopped service to examine their impact on campus. After a year of evaluation, it has been determined that Nightline will not reopen and will instead be replaced by another peer support service.

According to a press release from Nightline last September, Nightline closed due to the large amount of non-MIT callers and lack of staff. The group shut down the service to examine if their advising office should switch from S3, if Nightline was still an effective service, and if a new type of support group should be established.

Nightline, Page 10

Living Pink guide sheds light on LGBT views

By Stephanie Holden

At some point before arriving on campus, every incoming freshman wonders what his or her dormitory life is going to be like. Will I get along with my roommates? Will I like the people on my floor? What is the atmosphere of my dorm? Will I feel welcome?

The Living Pink guide is a resource designed to help students and their families to answer these questions. The guide, found at livingpink. mit.edu, is based on a survey distributed to MIT students in spring 2011. The questions asked of the living groups focused on issues pertaining to welcoming lesbian, bisexual, gay, transgender, and queer individuals.

Cory D. Hernandez '14 and Jenna G. Caldwell '11 were responsible for reviving the survey, which was last conducted in 2005.

Their increase response rates and to gather a variety of perspectives and personal stories by increasing anonymity for participants.

"The culture in MIT living groups is more constant than in other places, but people are always changing. There are completely different groups of people, and the information [from the last survey] didn't match up with our knowledge of the groups," said Caldwell.

The Living Pink survey was

Living Pink, Page 11

VIRGINIA TECH **SHOOTING**

Two men, including a police officer, were shot dead yesterday.

NATION, p. 2

BASKETBALL UNDEFEATED

The men's team beats UMass Boston with family atmosphere. SPORTS, p. 16

EVERYONE LOVES COFFEE

Including hyperactive goats and Beethoven. CAMPUS LIFE, p. 9



COMING-OF-AGE FILM IS COMPLEX

The Tree of Life is much more satisfying to the analytical and self-reflective. ARTS, p. 8

DINING PLAN: SOUR IN A TERM?

Columnist displeased with prices and rigidity in number of meals.

OPINION, p. 4

SECTIONS

World & Nation 2
Opinion 4
Fun Pages 5
Arts 8
Campus Life 9
Sports 16

Putin accuses Clinton of instigating protests

MOSCOW — Prime Minister Vladimir Putin on Thursday accused Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton of inciting unrest in Russia, as he grappled with the prospect of large-scale political protest for the first time in his more than decade-long rule.

In a rare personal accusation, Putin said Clinton had sent "a signal" to "some actors in our country" after Sunday's parliamentary elections, which have been condemned as fraudulent by both international and Russian observers. Anger over the elections prompted a demonstration in which thousands chanted "Putin is a thief" and "Russia without Putin," a development which has deeply unnerved the Kremlin. Speaking to political allies as he announced the formation of his presidential campaign, Putin said hundreds of millions in "foreign money" was being used to influence Russian politics, and that Clinton herself had spurred protesters to action.

Putin's assertion that Clinton had prejudged Sunday's vote seemed unfounded. Her first remarks were made Monday, after a scathing preliminary report was released by monitors from the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe.

—David M. Herszenhorn and Ellen Barry, The New York Times Iran shows US drone on TV

and lodges a protest

Seizing on its capture of a downed CIA stealth drone as an intelligence and propaganda windfall, Iran displayed the first images of what is described as the captive aircraft on state television Thursday and lodged an official diplomatic protest over

The 2.5-minute video clip of the remote-control surveil-lance aircraft was the first visual proof to emerge that Iran had possession of the drone since Sunday, when Iran claimed that its military downed the aircraft. U.S. officials have since confirmed that controllers of the aircraft, based in neighboring Afghanistan, had lost contact with it.

The drone shown on Iran television appeared to be in good condition, although closer inspection of the images appeared to reveal a taped fracture on part of the wing.

Broadcast of the footage coincided with Iran's announcement that it had formally protested what it called the violation of Iranian airspace by the spy drone. Because Iran and the United States have no direct diplomatic relations, Iran made its complaint by summoning the ambassador from Switzerland, which manages U.S. interests in Iran.

—Rick Gladstone, The New York Times

Muslim brotherhood quits Egypt constitutional panel

CAIRO — The Muslim Brotherhood, the Islamist group whose political party is leading in parliamentary elections here, on Thursday accused Egypt's interim military rulers of attempting to undermine the legislature's authority and interfering in the writing of a new Constitution.

The Brotherhood's Freedom and Justice Party said it was withdrawing from an advisory council being formed by the military leaders, saying that the military was trying to give the new council a major role in writing the Constitution.

On Wednesday, a member of the military council told a small group of Western journalists that to limit the power of a potential Islamist majority in the new Parliament, the military planned to give the new advisory council and the military-led Cabinet major roles in forming a constitutional assembly. Gen. Mohktar al-Mulla of the military council contended during the briefing that the newly elected Parliament would not represent the will of the broader Egyptian public.

—David D. Kirkpatrick, The New York Times

2 dead in shooting on Virginia Tech campus

By Sabrina Tavernise and J. David Goodman

THE NEW YORK TIMES

Two people, including a police officer, are dead after a shooting Thursday afternoon on the campus of Virginia Tech, the scene of a 2007 massacre in which 33 people were killed, university officials said.

The shooting took place around noon, a university spokesman said, after a campus police officer made what was described as a routine traffic stop in a parking lot near McComas Hall, a gym and sports building. During the stop, the officer was shot and killed, said the spokesman, Mark Owczarski, director of news and information. The gunman was not the person involved in the traffic stop, officials said during a news conference.

After several tense hours, the university announced about 4:30 p.m. that there was "no longer an active threat" on campus.

Earlier in the day, witnesses reported seeing the gunman running toward a different parking lot, called the Cage, near Duck Pond Drive. At that parking lot, a man was found, also dead. It was unclear whether he had been shot. Officials would not comment on whether the second person found dead was the man who shot the police officer. Police did not identify the officer but said he was a four-year veteran of the Virginia Tech Police Department.

"The second is an unknown male subject who was found deceased in a parking lot near the Duck Pond," the university said in a statement. "A weapon has been recovered at the location of the second individual. Reports of any additional shots being fired or any additional victims are unfounded."

An image posted online by a reporter from The Roanoke Times, Lerone Graham, showed a cordoned-off area and white sheet covering a body in the middle of a narrow road.

Ed Falco, the director of creative writing at Virginia Tech, was one of 12 professors locked in his office at Shanks Hall on Thursday afternoon.

Falco, who was off campus during the 2007 shooting, said he had

been at home Thursday when he received an alert on the campus message system. He said that because previous alerts had been prompted by backfiring trucks and other false alarms that he decided to come to school for an appointment.

"I figured this would be the same thing and came to campus anyway," he said. "I'm fine, but along with everyone else, this brings back very bad memories and bad associations. That this is actually happening is unbelievable."

Falco said there is a state trooper parked outside the building and that the police have made sure everyone inside is fine.

A bulletin described the suspect, traveling on foot in the direction of a recreational sports building: "white male, gray sweatpants, gray hat w/neon green brim, maroon hoodie and backpack."

Earlier in the day, a student publication, The Collegiate Times, reported that witnesses saw a man matching the suspect's description.

The Virginia State Police have been asked to take the lead in the case, Owczarski said.

Central bank lowers rates but dashes hopes

By Steven Erlanger and Jack Ewing

THE NEW YORK TIMES

BRUSSELS — A move by Europe's central bank to bolster the region's economy was overshadowed by worries that political leaders will not act boldly enough to contain the region's debt crisis at a two-day summit meeting that began here on Thursday.

The optimism of recent weeks swung decidedly back to pessimism, with stocks falling and the cost of borrowing for several major European countries rising sharply.

In Frankfurt, the European Central Bank lowered interest rates for the second time in a little more than a month, signaling that it wants to help slowing economies. But the bank dashed hopes that might ramp up its bond-buying program to contain the sovereign debt crisis, as many have urged

it to do to relieve intense market pressure on countries like Italy.

Late Thursday, European leaders here were circulating the draft of a new "fiscal compact" for the currency union, including tighter control of public finances. Disagreement persisted about whether any deal would cover all 27 European Union member states or just the 17-member eurozone, and about whether it would involve amendments to the euro treaty. Leaders were also discussing whether a permanent bailout fund, set to begin operation as early as July, should function as a licensed banker.

Earlier in the day in Washington, President Barack Obama voiced frustration that Chancellor Angela Merkel of Germany and other European leaders were focusing on the wrong problem by negotiating long-term changes to the euro treaty, rather than reas-

suring the markets and staving off a recession by taking bold shortterm action.

"If we see Europe tank, that obviously could have a big impact on our ability to generate the jobs that we need here in the United States," Obama told reporters in Washington.

"Europe is wealthy enough that there's no reason why they can't solve this problem," he said. "If they muster the political will, they have the capacity to settle markets down, make sure that they are acting responsibly, and that governments like Italy are able to finance their debt."

Adding to the anxiety, European regulators said on Thursday that many of the region's biggest banks, including the German giants Deutsche Bank and Commerzbank, needed to raise more money as reserves against potential losses.

WEATHER

Cool, dry weather to persist after record rain

Austin DiOrio

STAFF METEOROLOGIST

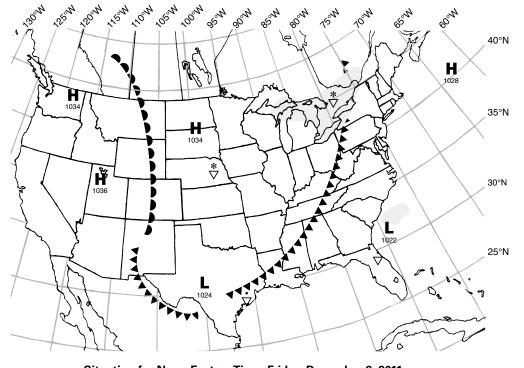
Wednesday's miserable weather proved to be a recordsetter here in the Boston area. Logan airport reported a Dec. 7-record 1.60 inches of rain, breaking the old high mark of 1.15" set back in 1959.

Yesterday and today have proven to be much drier, which will be the trend for the foreseeable future. In addition, temperatures will become quite seasonable. Highs

will be in the 40s and lows will generally be a bit below freezing. This weather is in contrast to the exceptionally warm weather experienced here in November and early December. Boston Logan recorded the second-highest November ever this year. The average temperature was 50.4°F, which was 5.7° above normal. The only warmer November for Boston was in 1975, when average temperature was more than 7°F above the normal.

Extended Forecast

Today: More clouds than sun. High 51°F. Tonight: Mostly cloudy. Low 37°F. Tomorrow: Mostly sunny. High 43°F. Sunday: Mostly sunny. High 40°F. Monday: Mostly sunny. High 45°F.



Situation for Noon Eastern Time, Friday, December 9, 2011

Weather Systems	Weather Fronts	Precipita	ation Sy	ymbols	Othe	er Symbols
			Snow	Rain		Fog
High Pressure	Trough	Showers	*	$\dot{\nabla}$	 	Thunderston
Low Pressure	Warm Front	Light	*	•		Haze
-	▲▲▲▲ Cold Front	Moderate	**			
§ Hurricane	▲ _ Stationary Front	Heavy	*			piled by MIT orology Staff

THE TECH 3 FRIDAY, DECEMBER 9, 2011

T weighs options on fare increases

By Eric Moskowitz

A single subway ride could soar to \$3.25, a monthly bus and subway pass could hit \$80, and a commuter rail pass from the farthest suburbs could climb to \$338 under one proposal prepared for the MBTA to balance its budget, according to documents obtained by the Globe Wednesday.

The proposals would raise the price of most trips and passes by 20 to 50 percent. They emerged from analyses prepared for the T by the region's apolitical Central Transportation Planning Staff and shared with some members of the MBTA's official Rider Oversight Committee.

One scenario would triple the current 30-cent surcharge imposed on subway riders who use paper CharlieTickets - printed by automated fare vending machines - instead of the reloadable plastic CharlieCards. Under that plan, CharlieCard subway fares would rise from \$1.70 to \$2.35 and CharlieTicket fares from \$2 to \$3.25, a 63 percent

Mass. Secretary of Transportation Richard A. Davey cautioned that the T has not released any formal proposals and would present options in January for fare increases and service cuts taking effect July 1. He said the T will hold up to 16 workshops to gather public input before the board of directors votes in the spring.

"I don't want to release [the proposals], which could be controversial, in the middle of the holidays," Davey said. "I think that's not fair to our customers. I don't think we've ever had a fare-increase or service-cut scenario that we didn't adjust once we put it out for public

Davey spoke with reporters after an MBTA board meeting at which members of the T Riders Union decried the potential changes for putting the greatest burden on students, people with disabilities, and the

"The MBTA is a lifeline for these riders," five members of the union, a ridership group that advocates for people who depend on public transportation, wrote in a letter presented to the MBTA's general manager and board. "They rely on the system to get them from their homes to jobs, schools, doctor's appointments, churches, and grocery and retail stores."

In testimony, members said the state instead should provide more direct tax support or at least relieve the MBTA of some of its \$9 billion in debt and interest. Close to half of that was inherited in 2000, when the Legislature enacted a plan known as forward funding, intended to make the T self-sufficient. Part of that was tied to expansion that was mandated to offset the environmental impacts of the Big Dig project.

Davey said such relief can come only from the Legislature and governor, unlikely given the state's budget constraints, the sour economy, and a reluctance to raise taxes.

"In the absence of some other kind of relief, we can only work with the tools that we have," Davey said. "And the tools that we have are doing everything we can to squeeze efficiencies out of our system, changing our product - which is our service or changing the price of our product, which is the fares."

Obama backs Sebelius stance on morning-after pill

By Jackie Calmes and Gardiner Harris THE NEW YORK TIMES

WASHINGTON - President Barack Obama, who took office pledging to put science ahead of politics, averted a skirmish with conservatives in the nation's culture wars Thursday by endorsing his health secretary's decision to block over-the-counter sales of an after-sex contraceptive pill to girls younger than 17.

The administration action inevitably raised questions about whether politics was trump in this instance - especially from disappointed supporters in the scientific and women's rights communities. Obama, who had criticized how his predecessor made decisions on issues like contraceptives, sought to dispel that idea in remarks to White House reporters.

"I did not get involved in the process," he quickly asserted.

Obama said the decision was

made by his secretary of health and human services, Kathleen Sebelius. On Wednesday, in a rare move. she overruled the Food and Drug Administration, which had recommended that the morning-after pill Plan B One-Step is safe and should be sold without a prescription to people younger than 17, just as it is now to those who are 17 and older.

"I will say this, as the father of two daughters: I think it is important for us to make sure that we apply some common sense to various rules when it comes to over-thecounter medicine," Obama said.

"And as I understand it, the reason Kathleen made this decision was she could not be confident that a 10-year-old or an 11-year-old going into a drugstore should be able - alongside bubble gum or batteries - be able to buy a medication that potentially, if not used properly, could end up having an adverse effect. And I think most parents would probably feel the same way."

Asked if he fully supported Sebelius, Obama said, "I do."

The president's remarks suggested social and cultural concerns even as he said Sebelius had acted out of scientific concerns; in particular, she cited the manufacturer's failure to study whether girls as young as 11 could safely use the drug. And the issue has been a matter of political contention, with conservative and anti-abortion groups opposed and public health and women's rights groups in favor.

Yet the response of those disappointed by the administration's decision was more muted than in many such controversies, reflecting a broad sense that this was not a fight to pick with Republicans and conservative groups. On Capitol Hill, Rep. Nancy Pelosi, the Democratic minority leader and a stalwart of reproductive rights groups, neither endorsed nor criticized the decision, deferring to Sebelius even as she praised the FDA commissioner, Margaret Hamburg.

Clinton warns against restricting internet access

By Steven Lee Myers and Heather Timmons

THE NEW YORK TIMES

THE HAGUE, Netherlands — Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton and other international leaders urged countries and private businesses on Thursday to fight increasing efforts to restrict access to the Internet by repressive governments and even some democratic

Opening a two-day conference on digital freedom here sponsored by Google and the Dutch government, Clinton warned that restrictions on the Internet threatened not only basic freedoms and human rights, but also international commerce and the free flow of information that increasingly makes it possible.

When ideas are blocked, information deleted, conversations stifled and people constrained in their choices, the Internet is diminished for all of us," Clinton said. She added:

"There isn't an economic Internet and a social Internet and a political Internet. There's just the Internet."

Clinton and others cited examples in which autocratic countries - often with the assistance of international technology corporations — cracked down on access to the Internet or the use of it, including Syria, Iran, China, and Russia. But increasingly some democratic countries have tried to restrict information, underscoring the complexity of controlling an essential part of

On Dec. 1, South Korea's Communications Commission said it would start reviewing social networking services and mobile applications to remove offensive or immoral content. Officials described the changes, including adding an eight-member team to monitor social media sites, as a necessary measure against North Korean propaganda.

Four days later, the minister of communications in India said it, too,

would develop a way to screen information on the Internet and remove content it found offensive or deemed incendiary, after Google, Facebook, Yahoo, and Microsoft jointly refused

"More and more countries are trying now to regulate and control the Internet," Uri Rosenthal, the foreign minister of the Netherlands, said after meeting separately with Clinton on Thursday. "And it is unacceptable that websites are blocked. Internet queues are filtered, content manipulated, and bloggers are attacked and imprisoned."

Clinton cited the imprisonment of Aleksei Navalny, a widely followed blogger who has challenged the results of Russia's Dec. 4 parliamentary elections, and the arrest of a Syrian blogger, Anas al-Marawi, who has opposed the government of President Bashar Assad and its crackdown. "These and many other incidents worldwide remind of us of the stakes of this struggle," she said.

Blast hits pipeline in Syrian city

 $\ensuremath{\mathsf{BEIRUT}} - \ensuremath{\mathsf{A}}$ pipeline carrying oil to a refinery in the tense Syrian city of Homs was blown up Thursday, activists and the official Syrian news agency said, casting a huge pillar of black smoke over the city's cloudy horizon.

The news agency, Sana, blamed the attack on an "armed terrorist group," the phrase the Syrian government has used to describe those behind the country's uprising. Some activists in Homs suggested that the government was responsible, as part of an effort to besiege a city that has proven the most rebellious since the revolt began in March.

One resident, who gave his name as Abu Rohayel, said the smoke was so thick that people there were suffering from respiratory problems.

"I can see mothers covering their children with blankets," he said. The attack on the pipeline occurred at about 1 a.m., and it was still burning by noon. It was at least the third attack on a pipeline in Syria this year. In July, a gas pipeline in the eastern province of Deir al-Zour was struck, as was an oil pipeline near Homs.

The European Union has banned imports of oil from Syria, devastating what represented one of the country's main sources of revenue. Residents in Homs and elsewhere have complained of shortages in heating oil, making a cold winter more difficult.

—Anthony Shadid, The New York Times

Senate blocks Obama's choice for consumer panel

WASHINGTON - The Senate on Thursday blocked President Barack Obama's nominee to head the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau, as filibustering Republicans who oppose the very powers of the new agency successfully challenged one of the administration's main responses to the financial crisis.

The nomination of Richard Cordray was rejected after Democrats failed to achieve the 60 votes they needed to move his nomination forward. The vote was 53 yes, 45 no.

Obama left open the option of a recess appointment.

"We are not giving up on this," he said. "We are going to keep on going at it. We are not going to allow politics as usual on Capitol Hill to stand in the way of American consumers being protected."

Sen. Mitch McConnell of Kentucky, the Republican leader, said his party had made clear for months that it would not approve a leader for the watchdog consumer agency until the law that established it was amended.

-John H. Cushman Jr., The New York Times

Markets end lower ahead of conference in Europe

Stocks fell sharply Thursday after the European Central Bank appeared to lower expectations for an expanded bond-buying program just as leaders gathered for a summit meeting intended to resolve the sovereign debt crisis in Europe.

The central bank cut its benchmark interest rate for the second consecutive month and expanded the emergency financing it provides to cash-starved banks.

But Mario Draghi, president of the central bank, indicated in a news conference that he was cautious about future bond purchases. Yields on Italian and Spanish bonds rose after his remarks and stocks declined in Europe and then on Wall Street.

Analysts said that investors appeared to be disappointed by Draghi's remarks, in which he said he was "surprised" his recent comments were seen as a sign that the bank would buy more bonds $if \ political \ leaders \ delivered \ tougher \ rules \ on \ budgetary \ discipline.$ —Christine Hauser, The New York Times

US climate envoy seems to shift on timetable for talks

DURBAN, South Africa — Facing criticism from fellow envoys, environmental activists and one impassioned heckler, the chief U.S. negotiator at a climate conference here Thursday shifted his position - or at least his language — on a timetable for a new set of international talks.

Todd D. Stern, the Obama administration's special envoy for climate change, was put on the defensive by a narrative developing here that the United States opposed any further action to address global climate disruption until after 2020, when the 1997 Kyoto Protocol, a primary U.N. climate agreement, and voluntary programs negotiated more recently have run their course.

He denied that the United States w what ambiguously, endorsed a proposal from the European Union to quickly start negotiating a new international climate change treaty.

The 17th annual meeting of the U.N. Framework Convention on Climate Change is scheduled to conclude Friday night. A number of issues are nearing resolution, although others — including the status of the Kyoto Protocol as well as the form and timing of future negotiations — remain up in the air.

–John M. Broder, The New York Times

Letter bomb sent to Deutsche Bank's chief

BERLIN — German authorities said Thursday that a suspicious envelope intercepted by Deutsche Bank employees was a letter bomb apparently sent by an Italian anarchist organization to the bank's chief executive, Josef Ackermann, one of the most powerful and controversial figures in European banking.

In a joint statement the state police in Hessen and the Frankfurt prosecutor's office said "initial investigations show that this was a functional letter bomb." The letter was addressed to Ackermann.

Though a native Swiss, Ackermann is the most prominent banker in Germany, his name is synonymous with an industry whose reputation has plummeted since the financial crisis.

A spokesman for the state police, Siegfried Wilhelm, said a letter had been found, and an Italian group, the Informal Anarchist Federation, which has a history of sending letter bombs, claimed responsibility.

—Nicholas Kulish, The New York Times



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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

SCEP does not make policy

Thank you for reminding students of the end-of-term policies in "Know your end-of-term policies" article by Adisa Kruayatidee in the Dec. 6, 2011 issue of the Tech. I would like to clarify one point in the article.

The written end-of-term policies are not a collaboration between the Office of the Chair of the Faculty and the UA

Student Committee on Educational Policy (SCEP). The policies are in fact part of the official Regulations of the Faculty at MIT as recorded at http://web.mit.edu/faculty/ governance/rules/, and are binding on the MIT faculty. SCEP does not enforce the policies, but works on behalf of the students and in collaboration with the Office of the Chair of the Faculty to make sure MIT faculty are aware of and in compliance with the Regulations.

I encourage students to review their syllabi, both now and in future terms,

and not to hesitate to contact us at http:// ua.mit.edu/issues/educational policy/ violations/ or at violations@mit.edu if you have any concerns about classes. The earlier in a semester you contact us, the more we can do. Online reports can be filed anonymously, and we will look into and attempt to resolve any concern brought to us.

On behalf of all of SCEP, best of luck to everyone with all Regulations-compliant exams, assignments, and final projects.

Paul M. Kominers, UA SCEP Chair

No bang for your buck

One term in, new dining plan leaves a bad taste

By Kristian Fennessy

At long last, MIT finally has a real dining plan. As all of you should know, unless you've lived under a rock all semester, MIT has finally revamped the old dining protocol, so we no longer have to pay absurd a la carte prices for meager portions, chosen from a limited selection. We now get to eat all we care to! It's a shining beacon in the midst of the darkness that is vicious time crunches and carnivorous problem sets.

Just kidding.

The new dining plan, in layman's terms, sucks. Want to hear why? Sit back and take a seat, because I've got a mouthful for you. Pun intended.

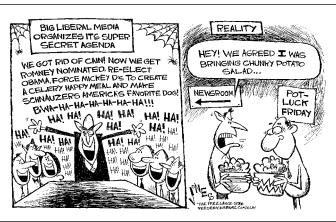
Let's start with the prices. We used to have the option of paying a flat rate of \$300 at the beginning of the semester to receive a 50 percent discount on meals in dining. This was a bit annoying to some students, and it also caused a \$600,000 loss for MIT per year - seems like a pretty motivating factor for change. Those of us on meal plans today pay a large sum of money in the beginning of the semester and, in return, we receive a set number of meals per week. Maseeh freshmen must cough up \$4500 on top of tuition and housing to eat 19 meals a week. They have it pretty bad. But hey, that's just the Maseeh freshmen, right? Juniors and seniors in other dining dorms only have to pay \$2500!

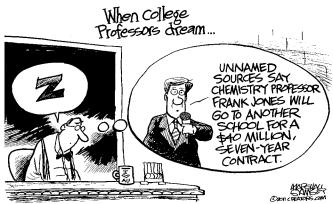
But \$2500 for 210 meals, under the junior/senior 7 ANY plan, results in a cost of \$11.90 per meal. When those of us not on the dining plan can purchase breakfasts for \$7.50 and lunches for \$11.00, this doesn't look like a particularly good deal to me. And for somebody not on the dining plan, eating an even distribution of breakfasts, lunches, and dinners would have one paying \$10.67 per meal, since dinners individually cost \$13.50. All this information can be found on MIT Dining's Meal Plan website — some calculator use required. In the administration's defense, however, it's quite a challenge to provide a service, keep the vendor happy, keep the clientele happy, and stay in the

Another major complaint I hear from students in dining dorms is that at the end of the week, they, more often than not, have not used all their meals. The remainder of their meals for the week goes entirely to waste. They don't roll over to the next week, and you don't get money back for meals uneaten. That's especially unfortunate for people who have class during meal hours or who stay up until the sunrise to finish a problem set and sleep through breakfast (but who does that?). So what do you do with your unused meals? Some good solutions would be to swipe a friend in with you or to swipe in, go to office hours, and swipe in again later in one meal period.

Except that MIT doesn't let you do that either. If somebody wants to swipe in more than once during the same meal period or bring a friend with them, why shouldn't they be able to? They paid for the meals, so they should be able to use them as they please. As of next semester, this will not be changed, but MIT has been working to implement new policies starting in Fall 2012. The trouble with working with a third party vendor is that issues like this cannot always be changed right away. I won't claim to have any knowledge of the difficulty involved in fixing issues like this, assuming that altering the logistical details of such a complex system is even possible. The best we can hope for is that the public's opinion is heard and at least attempted to be made satisfied.

So what do we have now? We have students living in dining dorms very unhappy with the new, overpriced, unwanted dining system that they can only escape by moving into a non-dining dorm. There is no longer any solace for those who lived in Baker, McCormick, Next, and Simmons but want to cook. Even fraternities, sororities, and independent living groups are being forced to participate; the terms of Pi Beta Phi's new house on Dorm Row include partaking in the meal plan. In my opinion, the new dining plan is nothing more than a financial and culinary death trap. But feel free to disagree with me; this is just my two cents. It's your \$4500.





CORRECTIONS

An article published on Nov. 29 incorrectly stated that the Dalai Lama has visited the Dalai Lama Center for Ethics and Transformative Values at MIT three times. He has only visited twice. The same article also incorrectly said that Ethics Initiative talks involve approximately 15 students - it is actually closer to 25-30. In addition, these talks are made available on MIT World, not MIT OpenCourseware.

An article published Tuesday on the

Commencement speaker incorrectly stated that the Undergraduate Association vice president, the 2012 Class Council vice president, and the Graduate Student Council vice president participated in the committee's recommendation for the commencement speaker. Vice presidents do not sit on the subcommittee that offers speaker recommendations to President Susan I. Hockfield, but they do sit on the larger Commencement Committee.

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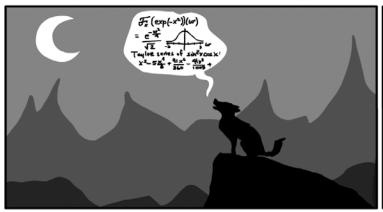
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Arthursaurus REX by Ramya Swamy







Crossword Puzzle

ACROSS

- 1 Subtle info
- 5 Garners
- 10 Cyberspace place
- 14 Grunted denial
- 15 White heron
- 16 Smell
- 17 God of discord
- 18 Xenophobic fear
- 20 Short synopsis
- 22 Comment in the margin
- 23 Hotsy-_
- 25 Acacia tree
- 26 Sure thing
- 29 Acrophobic fear 33 For two, in music
- 34 Tennessee's streetcar
- 36 Drivers' org
- 37 Heron's cousin
- 39 Primary color
- 40 Invitation replies
- 43 Put the whammy on
- 46 "QB VII" author

- 47 Arachnophobic fear
- 49 Chicken coop
- 51 Clue dir.
- 52 Fossil resin
- 53 Isolation
- 57 Addictive drug
- 61 Agoraphobic fear
- 63 Joyless
- 64 Fisherman's chum
- 65 Threefold
- 66 Steering mechanism
- 67 Do in
- 68 On-court stabbing victim
- 69 See ya!

DOWN

- 1 Wahine's dance
- 2 Flapjack chain
- 3 Microwave?
- 4 Triskaideka-phobic fear
- 5 Shot down
- 6 Self-image
- 7 Display
- 8 Part of a hammerhead

- 9 Lead balloon
- 10 "Illness as Metaphor" writer
- 11 Creative spark
- 12 Civil wrong
- 13 Gaelic tongue
- 19 More viscous 21 Male swan
- 24 Aft areas
- 26 Defensive stats
- 27 "With blood the trees were all __" (Bierce)
- 28 King of Egypt, 1922-36
- 29 Cab Calloway catch phrase
- 30 Le __, France
- 31 Tropical ungulate 32 Smart-alecky
- 35 Form query 38 Casts out
- 41 Heliophobic fear
- 44 Breaks into 45 Removes from office
- 48 Delicate
- 50 Snooze
- 52 Seasick sea serpent 53 Breaks into tears
- 54 October stone
- 55 "Star Wars" princess 56 Be gutsy
- 58 Vicinity
- 59 Slant
- 60 Thompson of "Wit"
- 62 WSW opposite

Sudoku

Solution, page 11

	6			4				9
	9		2		7			
	8			6			1	
		6		7		3		8
8	5						4	6
8 9		4		8		1		
	1			3			5	
			8		1		5 3 6	
2				9			6	

Techdoku

Solution, page 11

10×		3÷		24×	
3×	32×		60×	15×	
	6			5	
1÷				8+	
20×		30×	12×	6÷	
					3

MIT ONLINE SUBJECT EVALUATIONS ARE NOW OPEN

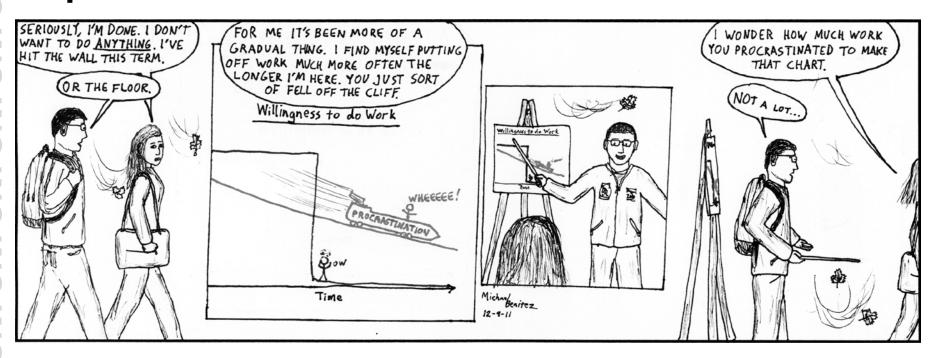
Evaluate subjects and teachers through Friday, December 16 at noon: web.mit.edu/subjectevaluation

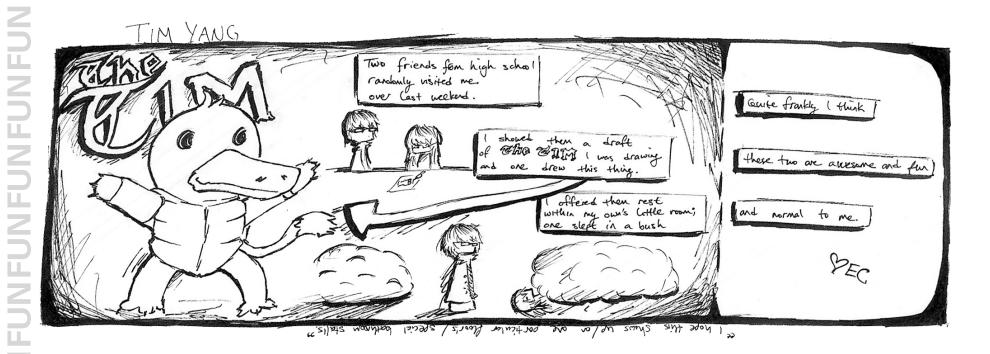
View past evaluation results: web.mit.edu/subjectevaluation/results.html

ALL FEEDBACK IS READ AND VALUED... especially your written comments!

6 THE TECH FRIDAY, DECEMBER 9, 2011

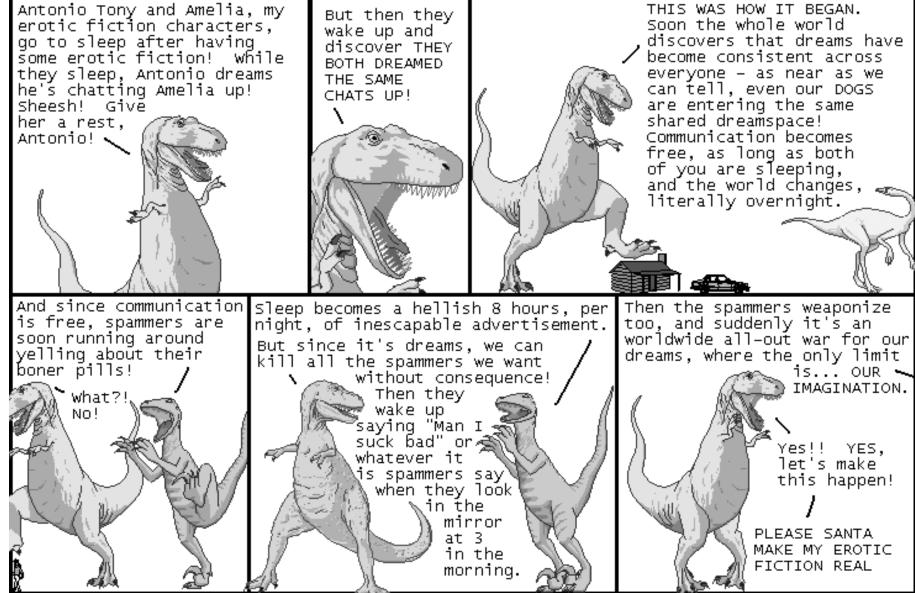
Help Desk by Michael Benitez





Dinosaur Comics

by Ryan North



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MOVIE REVIEW

Tricked by the trailer?

Immortals provides nice action, but despite the hype, fails to please

By Philipp M. Diesinger

STAFF WRITER

Tarsem Singh's (*The Cell*) third film *Immortals* (previously named *War of the Gods*) is an incondite action movie loosely based on Greek mythology. It falls far below the expectations raised by the trailer but does at least provide some aesthetically pleasing action sequences which demonstrate Singh's skills as a music video (REM, "Losing My Religion") and commercial (Pepsi) director.

The plot of *Immortals* is a simple one. Hyperion, the king of Crete (Mickey Rourke), has declared war upon the gods because they did not help to save his family from illness. He is on a raid across the country to find the Epirus bow, the only weapon that will allow him to unleash the Titans from their eternal prison upon the gods to take revenge for his family. Hyperion attacks several holy places, among them the

hometown of Theseus (Henry Cavill), to find an oracle priestess (Freida Pinto) who has the power to guide him to the bow. When attacking Theseus' village, Hyperion kills Theseus' mother.

Theseus is not helpless, however. He has been taught and raised by an old man, who is actually Zeus (John Hurt). This makes the mysterious and vicious Heraklion, King Hyperion, and the young soldier Theseus equal opponents. In the action that follows, Theseus tries to protect the oracle and the bow from Hyperion, but he fails, thus allowing the Titans to become unleashed and initiate the "War of the Gods."

Just as Zack Snyder's *Sucker Punch* did, Singh's movie provides an excellent trailer with plenty of great action sequences and suggests a good story. But very much like *Sucker Punch*, the actual movie falls far below its raised expectations and vastly disappoints. The linear storyline makes the movie that much more boring. Greek my-

thology, though rich in excellent stories, contributes little to the film besides acting as a template for the costume and set designers. Besides this, *Immortals* also provides a completely ridiculous sex scene between the oracle and Theseus, which does not seem to fit into the storyline at all. This scene in the middle of the movie triggered many incredulous laughs of disappointment from the audience.

Similar also Louis Leterrier's Greek mythology-based *Clash of the Titans, Immortals* provides a few nice action sequences, which have been used to craft the trailer and sell the movie. But overall, both films are big disappointments. The implications of this apparent pattern are frightening to some extent, and if it continues will damage the action movie genre. What we need more of are movies with great action sequences and captivating storylines: the last two James Bond films, *Casino Royale* and *Quantum of Solace*, and Zack Snyder's pre-

★★★☆☆

Immortals

Directed by Tarsem Singh

Starring Henry Cavill, Mickey Rourke, and John Hurt

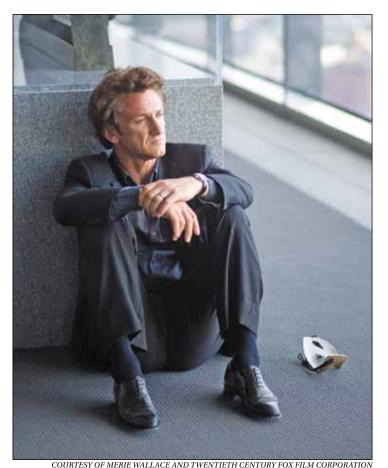
Rated R

Now Playing

vious films 300 and Watchmen, for example. Action sequences can be understood as aesthetically pleasing, well-choreographed sequences similar to a ballet or musical, as Marc Forster (Quantum of Solace) once put it, but they are not sufficient to make a good



Jessica Chastain, Laramie Eppler, Brad Pitt, and Tye Sheridan in The Tree of Life.



Sean Penn plays a man struggling to come to terms with complicated relationships and the modern world in *The Tree of Life*.

MOVIE REVIEW

Grace versus nature

Terrence Malick explores the importance of reflection in the coming-of-age tale *The Tree of Life*

By Natthida Wiwatwicha

STAFF WRITER

"Mother, Father, always you wrestle inside me, always you will."

The Palme d'Or-winning film *The Tree of Life* is an experiential collage of the internal struggle of a man, Jack O'Brien (Sean Penn). The movie reveals the story of his childhood in the 1950s as the young Jack (Hunter McCracken) grows up to see the world and its stains and the present-day Jack tries to remember one of his brothers who has passed away. Nothing else about the family is revealed beyond Jack's childhood, which is shaped by the juxtaposition of the concepts of nature and grace represented by his father Mr. O'Brien (Brad Pitt) and mother Mrs. O'Brien (Jessica Chastain).

"Grace doesn't try to please itself. Accepts being slighted, forgotten, disliked.... Nature only wants to please itself.... Get others to please it too ... to have its own way. It finds reasons to be unhappy when all the world is shining around it."

The movie opens with the voice of Mrs. O'Brien, a source of kindness and delight for her children, reminding her children to love everyone and see the wonders in everything. One of Jack's brothers takes after her — we see that from the way he picks up leaves and smells them, paints and plays the guitar, and avoids conflicts. The two characters are portrayed as saintly, innocent, graceful, and — presumably — fragile.

"Your mother is too good. It takes fierce to get ahead in this world."

Loving his children no less than his wife, Mr. O'Brien is, in contrast, a strict authoritarian. He teaches his sons to fight and disciplines them, punishing them if they speak without permission or close the door too loudly. He is a man in control: of his family, his career in engineering, his music, his gardens, his own life. But once his career faces instability, we find out that Mr. O'Brien is also vulnerable.

Distinctive cinematography is used to narrate with different voices — whether childhood perception or modern-day anxiety.

"Humans need both grace and nature to survive."

The characters are not pure symbols. They merely represent the most prevailing part of them. Mrs. O'Brien has nature in her as she fights, shows discontent, and although she appears to be the most faithful to God, she questions. Mr. O'Brien has grace in him, as despite all that he is, he still needs faith, love, and family. And we can see that even though he chooses to abandon his dream to become a musician he still keeps his passion for music. The characters are complex. And the depths of these characters make Terrence Malick's (The New World, The Thin Red Line) original writing so powerful and captivating.

"You let a boy die. You let anything happen. Why should I be good when you're not?"

The movie follows Jack's development through

The Tree of Life

Directed by Terrence Malick

Starring Brad Pitt, Sean Penn and Jessica Chastain

Rated PG-13

Now available on DVD

his first exposures to other people's sickness, death, and misfortunes. It follows him as he comes across lust and commits wrongdoings, as he questions and hates. Every subtle detail in the film brings it closer to perfection. Particular and distinctive cinematography is used to narrate with different voices — whether childhood perception or modern-day anxiety, wonders of natural creation or man-made structures. Simple moments like one in which Jack puts his hands in his pockets to mimic his father reveal so much intricacy — in this case, a sign of admiration along with respect for his father despite fear and contempt, and a child's attempt to define his way. The casting is successful. We see Sean Penn's face in the young, sullen Hunter McCracken.

"The world has gone to dogs. People greedy. Keep getting worse."

Jack, taking after his father, is now an architect, a figure that seeks to control. He creates not only objects but also, as his father puts it, his own destiny. The way of nature continues to prevail in him throughout his adulthood, and so Jack continues to suffer the way he did as a child. His cynicism and the torn-up sense of being stem from the inability to see the world and live like his mother. As a result, Jack figuratively, or physically in the figurative world as rendered in the film, tries to find his brother to resolve the balance between the way of nature and the way of grace. Everything seems to fall into place once he finds his mother, brother, and younger self at the end of the film.

The Tree of Life approaches the movie-audience relationship in quite a novel way. It does not feed us a series of tangible information, but it communicates implicitly and minimally to leave room for thinking or reflecting. Namely, if you do not feel like extracting or synthesizing meaning out of everything by yourself, then the movie will be slow and unsatisfying in its intensity. The same goes with life.

Perhaps *The Tree of Life* does not tell you enough of a story to be called a movie. It does not answer any questions but instead raises them. The characters are constantly in the process of self-revelation, but so are we, and it takes courage to reflect enough to answer the essential questions, the meaningful questions. The film is not the sum of what it shows or tells, but there is that Gestalt effect, that greater meaning, which cannot be tracked in what you hear or see without contemplation. *The Tree of Life* is not to be watched or consumed at the conscious level but to be thoughtfully and passionately felt, related, and understood.

By Nazia Chowdhury

STAFF COLUMNIST

RANDOM NEURONAL FIRINGS

16 shots of coffee

Fill your cup with these facts

As MIT students, who's a better friend than coffee? When the aroma of freshly brewed coffee from Bosworth's Cafe in Lobby 7 stimulates my olfactory neurons, I often get the urge to know more about coffee's origin. Here are 16 fun facts about coffee:

As the legend goes, European shepherds first noticed the effects of coffee when their goats became hyperactive (aka started dancing) after eating coffee beans.

Originally, African tribes used to eat coffee berries (Yes, they are actual berries containing two coffee beans) with fats. Think about it — fats with coffee beans — basically an energy bomb.

Coffee is the second most-sold commodity on Earth. Guess which one is the first? (Hint: Ever liked greasy food? Or wondered why the Middle East is so rich?)

George Washington invented "instant coffee." Read the next sentence before doubting me. A Belgian man living in Guatemala by the name of George Washington invented it in 1906.

How caffeine works: You get drowsy when adenosine (a nitrogen base attached to a fivecarbon sugar) binds to adenosine receptors in your brain. When caffeine gets in your system, it competes with adenosine to bind to the receptors, frequently binding before the adenosine. The pituitary gland recognizes the extra adenosine in bloodstream and senses an imbalance. In response, it produces adrenaline (the hormone for the fight-or-flight response) and bumps up the amount of dopamine (the "happiness chemical"), giving you a "caffeine-high."

Both the American Revolution and the French Revolution were born in coffeehouses. The American Revolution grew from roots planted in the Green Dragon Public House in the Lloyd's District of London. In July 1789, Camille Desmoulins, a French journalist and politician, jumped onto a table at the Palais Royal Café and motivated the mob to rebel against the French aristocracy. Two days later, the Bastille fell, marking the upswing of the French Revolution. It makes sense that king of England in 1675, Charles II, forbade his subjects to congregate at any place where coffee was sold.

At the end of sixteenth century, Istanbul alone had around 500 cafés. Turkish bridegrooms were once required to make a promise during their wedding ceremonies to always provide their new wives with coffee. If they failed to do so, it was grounds for divorce.

A shout-out for the espresso lovers out there! A shot of espresso has just as much caffeine as a normal cup of coffee. Also, the word "espresso" comes from the Latin word for press. It is named so because the beverage is brewed by forcing a small amount of boiling water under pressure through finely ground coffee.

The first American coffee trader was from Boston. By the name of Dorothy Jones, she was granted the license to sell coffee in 1670.

Beethoven was so particular about his coffee that he always counted 60 beans each cup when he prepared his brew.

Though Hawaii is the only coffee-producing state in the U.S., Americans are the No. 1 consumer in the global coffee market. But Norway is No. 1 in amount of coffee consumed per person.

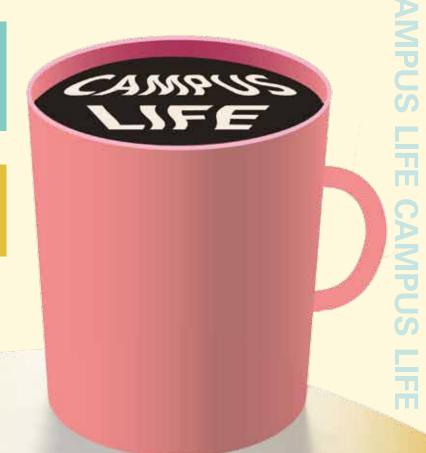
Brazil released coffee-scented postage stamps in 2001. The scent was supposed to last for three to five days. For a country that has tried to use coffee for other things, like plastic production, stamps seem quite normal.

Scientists have discovered more than 800 aromatic — in the sense of odors, not chemicals compounds in coffee.

A coffee tree lives for 60 to 70 years and can grow 30 feet tall. But they are pruned to a 10-foot height for the convenience of coffee-berry collectors.

Athletes beware! Caffeine is on the International Olympic Committee list of prohibited substances. Athletes who test positive for more than 12 micrograms of caffeine per milliliter of urine may be banned from the Olympic Games. This level may be reached after drinking about five cups of coffee.

Decaffeinated coffee sales are at their highest in January of each year, partially due to New Year's resolutions.



10 THE TECH FRIDAY, DECEMBER 9, 2011

New student peer support group on the horizon

Demand for peer support evident on latest MIT Enrolled Student Survey from February

Nightline, from Page 1

After Nightline closed, Isabella S. Lubin '12 and Tzipora R. Wagner '12 — former Nightline staffers interested in re-establishing peer support at MIT — in addition to other students who have since graduated, continued to meet with the goal of doing a peer support needs assessment,

calling themselves Peer2Peer. In February of 2011, Peer2Peer — with the UAAP and MIT Institutional Research — included questions about peer support, as well as a link to a

longer peer-support survey, on the MIT Enrolled Student Survey. This survey is run in the spring semester every four years to poll student opinion about their experience at MIT. All undergraduates are eligible to answer.

Survey data indicated that MIT students wanted peer-to-peer support. Peer2Peer also held focus groups, gathering input about the need for peer support at MIT. But it was determined that Nightline was not effective at providing the kind of support necessary, and it was decided to keep the program closed.

'We are working to lower the barrier to contact, so that our services can be widely utilized.'

—Tzipora R. Wagner '12
PEER2PEER MEMBER

Alan E. Siegel, chief of Mental Health Services at MIT, noted that Nightline was getting few calls from MIT students, but many calls from outside people looking for support. "We didn't feel Nightline captured the essence of peer-to-peer support," he noted.

Lubin and Wagner, James D. Chansky — an MIT Mental Health social worker — and Maryanne Kirkbride, clinical director for campus life, have been working to develop the new peer-to-peer model.

"We're in very early stages, and hope to have a program ready by next term," said Lubin, who also noted that there would be plans for staff training and recruitment at that time.

Siegel noted that they have been looking at existing models in other universities as inspiration for a new MIT model.

"Results from the survey in February have indicated that students are more likely to reach out to peers before reaching out to professional services," Wagner noted. "We are working to lower the barrier to contact, so that our services can be widely utilized. The service isn't

just meant to be used in times of crises, but also for everyday issues, like problems with friends or p-set stress."

While MIT Mental Health does not provide a formal peer-to-peer service, "we've been making an effort to have our staffers make sure that people in the living groups are aware of the services we offer," Siegel said. "We have worked a lot with GRTs, housemasters, administrative offices, and faculty on different ways of talking about how to be helpful to students when they are under distress."

However, Siegel added that many students felt that MIT Mental Health should not directly become part of the dorm experience, so Mental Health has been working indirectly.

Siegel also noted that MIT Mental Health would sometimes get calls from students about their friends. These students would ask what they could do to help.

"There is a good informal peerto-peer support network at MIT due to the collaborative interactions here," said Siegel. "The GRTs and RAs certainly help contribute to the system, and I feel the culture encourages support."

"The services at MIT Mental Health are great and underutilized," Lubin said. "But often we feel that students should reach out to peers as a first step."

"Students won't always need to go to a doctor or psychologist first," Wagner added, "but they may still need to go to someone.

MIT Mental Health has had a 70 percent increase in walk-ins this past November — higher than any other month in the last three years — and the number of walk-ins per day was double the average per month since 2008, said Siegel. He credits the increase in students urging their friends to go to medical, and the efforts of GRTs, housemasters, and the faculty.

Students looking for support are encouraged to reach out to a friend or speak with their GRTs or house team. MIT Mental Health has walkin hours from 2 to 4 p.m. every weekday, and appointments can be made by calling 617-253-2916.





FRIDAY, DECEMBER 9, 2011 THE TECH 11

Living Pink survey highlights LGBTQ issues at MIT Campus-wide survey revived, indicates successes and areas for future improvement

Living Pink, from Page 1

started in the early 2000s with the intention of being an annual publication. But the survey was not as successful as was hoped. According to Hernandez, the survey required MIT certificates from students who wished to participate. This requirement decreased particpants' feeling of anonymity, which resulted in fewer responses from undergraduates.

The survey was also not widely advertised and did not garner significant participation from a number of living groups. Hernandez said that the previous creators did not make the results easily accessible to MIT students, which further decreased the its popularity.

Caldwell and Hernandez were pleased with this year's response rate. Approximately 1,300 people responded — more than twice the number of subjects in the 2005 survey. That's about 30 percent of the undergraduate population, Hernandez said. "It's not ideal, but it's better [than previous years]," he

Hernandez, with the help of Abigail Francis, head of LBGT@ MIT, was able to share the results of the Living Pink Guide with housemasters, GRTs, and RAs when they went through training in the summer. House teams could use the information they learned to make the atmosphere of each living group as friendly as possible.

Of the 70 percent of students who did not fill out the survey, "I definitely think that was them choosing not to," Hernandez said.

The survey team looked to reach out to people in different ways, he added. Living Pink used dorm lists, club members, friends, the Dormitory Council, the Interfraternity Council, the Panhellenic Association, ILGs, and the Department of Residential Life. "Every time that we sent out the link, new responses came in." he said.

'The results for the sororities were phenomenal," said Hernandez. "The response rates for sororities was much higher than the campuswide average. They had great participation rates, they were very friendly."

Delta Kappa Epsilon (DKE) was the only living group that had no responses to the survey, although a few other groups had only one or two people respond. Hernandez and Caldwell said they were not surprised, since these living groups tended to be smaller and possibly received less encouragement to fill out the survey.

The president of DKE said in an email, "I know firsthand DKE is an accepting group, and I hope

Solution to Sudoku

from page 5

				. 13				
3	6	2	1	4	8	5	7	9
4	9	1	2	5	7	6	8	3
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9	7	4	6	8	3	1	2	5
7	1	9	4	3	6	8	5	2
6	4	5	8	2	1	9	3	7
2	3	8	7	9	5	4	6	1

Solution to Techdoku

2	5	3	1	4	6
1	4	2	6	3	5
3	6	4	2	5	1
6	3	1	5	2	4
4	1	5	3	6	2
5	2	6	4	1	3

that our lack of participation in the survey isn't misinterpreted as hostility towards the LBGT community. When I received the survey I forwarded it to our house list, and apparently didn't emphasize how important it was, and like most of the emails I send to the house list, it got ignored due to laziness. I can assure you that we plan on participating when the survey comes out

Cooperation from various interest groups at MIT was vital for the distribution of the survey.

"We had a lot of help from administrators," Caldwell said, "They were tremendously helpful, and it was gratifying because we weren't just working on our own. It's nice to know that [administrators] cared about these questions and making sure these places were safe for LGBT students.'

Hernandez also appreciated the publicity that the Living Pink survey received from the MIT News Office in early November. "I think that for the most part, it was accurate, but they did leave out the negatives," said Hernandez. While the survey seems to show that, as a whole, MIT living groups are welcoming to LGBT students, not all the comments were friendly, Hernandez said.

"One of the most troubling things I saw was people's lack of understanding of language use," he said. "When a lot of people use [derogatory language] as a joke and one person is hurt by it, it's troubling that they can't stand up and say something about it."

"Readers of the survey results have to keep in mind that these are opinions that may not necessarily reflect what incoming students' experiences would be in that dorm." Caldwell said. She noted that there was sometimes conflicting information from different students one student would comment on how welcoming the community was, and another student would describe a situation where they felt uncomfortable.

The Living Pink survey will continue to be relevant to the MIT community. Henry J. Humphreys, dean of residential life and dining, plans to meet with other deans and directors to go over the details of the survey and discuss the possibility of its impact on the MIT community.

"I guess I have this curious streak ... I want to know where we're doing well, why are we doing well? Where we're not doing well, how can we improve that?" Humphreys said.

There have also been questions about the future location of the Rainbow Lounge, a central meeting place for LGBT groups at MIT. The Rainbow Lounge is currently in the basement of Walker Memorial, but

after potential renovations at Walker the lounge may be moved. Humphreys is not sure what will happen yet, but he acknowledges that there is a lot of restructuring that must

LGBTQ, Page 14

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The 484 Phi Alpha Foundation

12 THE TECH FRIDAY, DECEMBER 9, 2011

Students tend to suggest entertainers for keynote Speaker subcommittee looks for someone who embodies MIT spirit and mission

Khan, from Page 1

said. In an interview with The Tech last year, Chancellor Eric Grimson PhD '80 noted that "Hockfield takes the list seriously and gives all input great consideration," and said that the final selection is often someone who appeared on the shortlist.

Grimson said that the shortlist sent to the president this year had about 10-15 suggestions and that the "bulk" of it came from input from students.

Student representatives are asked to solicit feedback from their constituencies to help prepare the shortlist. This year, Fox and Graduate Student Council President Alex J.

Evans G represented the undergraduate senior class and graduate students, respectively. In September, Fox distributed a survey via email to the senior class to gather ideas for the commencement day speaker.

Fox said that some popular suggestions from the survey included Stephen Colbert, Jon Stewart, Larry Page, Eric Schmidt, and Steve Jobs, but could not comment on whether those suggestions made it to the shortlist. "A lot" of respondents were interested in Khan, he added, but declined to comment on whether Khan made it to the shortlist.

'The past few years there's been this dissatisfaction with the lack of famous speakers," said Fox, but added that he was pleased with this year's pick.

"Sal's story of leaving his lucrative job in finance behind in pursuit of a greater calling is also inspiring," said Fox in a statement to the MIT News Office. "Many of us often talk about that crazy dream of ours, that one thing we'd love to do if money didn't matter. Sal is a man who not only left money to pursue his dream, but has succeeded in creating something truly remarkable: a free worldclass education to anyone with a basic Internet connection."

The Undergraduate Association President has participated in the speaker selection meeting for at least the past two years, but was

absent from this year's process. Current UA President Allan E. Miramonti '13 says he does not recall being informed of a meeting.

"To give them the benefit of the doubt, it was just a technical slipup," Miramonti said. "At the end of the day, I'm happy with the selection that was made.

Executive Officer for Commencement Gayle M. Gallagher and Grimson, the Commencement Committee chair, declined to comment on Miramonti's absence. Gallagher said that Fox and Evans did an "excellent job" soliciting feedback from their constituencies and participating in the shortlist creation.

This is also the first time since at least 1994 that the UA President is not a senior, though it is unclear whether that has a bearing on Miramonti's participation.

Noting that students often request "entertainers" and "brand names," Fox suggested that MIT consider Harvard College's scheme for graduation - hold a "class day" before commencement and invite a fun, "brand name" speaker. At commencement, invite a speaker who meets MIT's traditional criteria.

MIT, unlike other colleges, does not provide monetary compensation to commencement speakers, though it does pay expenses and provide a small gift.



Alpha Delta Phi

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File Buffers Im-Python Edit Options Tools Python Help import new_skills def learnMarketableJobSkills(): return linux, OSX, javascript, applescript, perl, python if you.interest == True: print "E-mail join@tech.mit.edu" ----:---F1 joinTechno.py

Pike disbands after unsuccessful colonization

This past summer, MIT's Pi Kappa Alpha (Pike) colony disbanded in a mutual agreement between the colony and the national organization.

The colony originally started in the spring of 2010, in what began as a slow process because members were scattered across many dorms on campus, said former Pike President Eric A. Del Castillo '13. Sigma Alpha Epsilon, another new fraternity on campus (founded in 1892, then closed in 1998 before reopening this year), succeeded where Pike failed partially because SAE had the advantage of having members concentrated in Bexley Hall, said Castillo. There was also little progress in organizing the potential fraternity during the summer, which came upon the group very quickly, said Castillo.

Pike was unsuccessful in its first Rush attempt this fall due to a lack of available members and funds. Only five brothers were on campus during rush, and the colony only had a \$500 budget. It was difficult to compete with the other frats that spent "thousands or tens of thousands of dollars," said Castillo. "With such an established Greek life it's hard to jump into it," he added.

Though Pike did recruit seven more members in the spring and brought its total to 25, the colony had to disband. Their numbers could not support the funds necesary to nay their national organization, who did not want to pursue the colonization, said Castillo.

Even though there is no longer a Pike on campus, Castillo said that they are all "still good friends," and that Pike still exists as a social group.

—Bruno B. F. Faviero

Solution to Crossword

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FRIDAY, DECEMBER 9, 2011

THE TECH 13

Novartis project approved

Toshiko Mori to design 22 Windsor Street building

By John A. Hawkinson

STAFF REPORTER

On Wednesday evening, Novartis announced Toshiko Mori as the second architect for its extended Cambridge campus and received approval to proceed with excavation contingent upon careful review of the public access to its courtyard.

Novartis presented its case to the Cambridge Planning Board, as part of a required zoning review stemming from a special zoning district approved for Novartis earlier this year. The new campus is on the site of the former Analog Devices building, which was finally demolished this week.

Toshiko Mori will design 22 Windsor Street, on the corner of State and Windsor Streets. She joins Maya Lin, who is designing 181 Massachusetts Avenue, on the corners of Mass. Ave, Albany Street, and Osborne Street. Lin designed the Vietnam Veterans Memorial in Washington DC.

The campus includes those two new buildings, as well as the existing 211 Mass Ave building (MIT Building N42), whose exterior will not change. Smart Street, which separates N42 from the Analog Devices lot, will be removed.

In a two-hour session before the planning board, Lin and Mori presented their vision for the site. The board heard from Cambridge's Community Development department and one member of the public, and discussed its concerns with the project.

Lin's building features a "porous stone screen" of local granite that will "glow at night," Lin said. The building is not transparent, Lin said, but instead is translucent with fritted glass.

There will be first-floor retail all along Windsor and Albany.

Mori described 22 Windsor's main aspect as a south facade with a sequence of five "mini-atriums" with balconies. The south facade is the most transparent, Mori said, with the east and west facades being translucent.

The buildings are connected by a bridge on the 6th floor.

The board unanimously approved the excavation permit, according to Jeff Lockwood, spokesman for the Novartis Institutes for Biomedical Research. Lockwood said he hopes to begin construction very early next year.

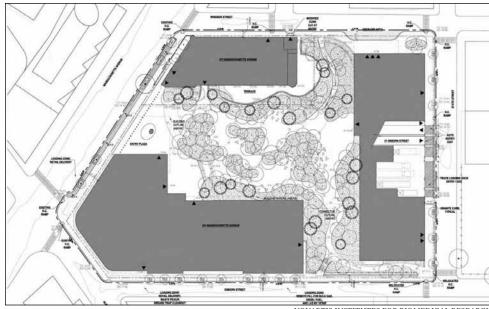
Much of the board's questioning focused on the large green courtyard between the three buildings. Novartis proposal says, "The centerpiece of the campus is a publicly accessible open space that will serve as a pedestrian connection between Kendall and Central Squares during business hours while also being integral and vital to the design of the complex. This urban scaled courtyard will also be an inspiration to the scientists working in the spaces around it."

The current Novartis campus, on the west side of Mass Ave, has a public-access courtyard, but, as the board noted, it is not inviting. Its steel gates are closed outside of business hours, and it does not appear to draw visitors. The board also discussed the failure of the University Park project (on Sidney Street, to the north and west of Novartis and Star Market) to produce open space that is effectively used by the public.

Cambridge attorney James Rafferty, representing Novartis, noted that the project team was still working out how to deal with restricting access to the courtyard, and that the project was not expected to open until February 2015.

"Is it a park? Is it a big corporate front yard?" asked William Tibbs, a member of the board. "The idea of it having limited control with the kind of openness that you're showing here is mind-boggling to me," he said

The board also expressed concerns about pedestrian traffic crossing Mass Ave mid-block between the two campuses, because the campuses on both sides of Mass Ave have main entrances in the middle of the block, quite some distance from the nearest pedestrian crossing.



NOVARTIS INSTITUTES FOR BIOMEDICAL RESEARCH

Layout of the new Novartis campus east of Massachusetts Avenue, also bounded by Albany, Osborn, State, and Windsor Streets. The campus features a large green courtyard that will be publicly accessible — at least during business hours.



NOVARTIS INSTITUTES FOR BIOMEDICAL RESEARCH

Design for 22 Windsor Street, by architect Toshiko Mori. It is characterized by five mini-atriums connected by diagonal staircases on the transparent south facade.

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LGBTQ, from Page 11

be done to determine where the lounge will be in the future.

Hernandez has several changes in mind should he ever do the Living Pink guide again. Most importantly, he said, he would reword one question which was particularly confusing. To make sure the survey was completely clear, he would ask a small sample of students to

take it before distributing it to all of MIT.

Hernandez hopes that, in the future, he can get the Living Pink survey endorsed by one of MIT's top administrators — Dean Chris Colombo, Chancellor Eric Grimson PhD '80, or President Susan J. Hockfield — in the hopes that it would reach more students.

The detailed results from this year's survey can be found online at http://livingpink.mit.edu/.

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FRIDAY, DECEMBER 9, 2011 THE TECH 15



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Squash wins 3 out of 5 matches at home invite

Engineers beat BU, BC, and NYU; now 4-6

By Greg McKeever

The MIT squash team hosted an invitational in conjunction with Wellesley College at the Z-Center squash courts over the week-



end. The Engineers squared off against four local rivals, Boston University, Northeastern University, Boston College, and Harvard University, as well as visiting New York University, and came away with a 3-2 led-

ger over the three days of competition. Tech defeated Boston University, 9-0, Boston College, 6-3, and New York University, 8-1, while falling the fifth-ranked Harvard, 9-0, and Northeastern, 7-2

Freshman Sung Won "Steve" Cho was outstanding for the Cardinal and Gray, winning four of his five matches at the No. 3 position. The freshman earned a tough, five-set win over Josh Ko of Boston College, battling back to win 7-11, 12-10, 8-11, 11-6, 11-8. He also picked up straight-set wins over Mike Wegman of Northeastern (11-9, 11-6, 11-8) and Zeke Hinchberg of NYU (11-3, 11-1, 11-4).

West D. Hubbard '14 got off to a fast start, winning his first three matches of the weekend before falling to his opponents from Har-

Against BU, Hubbard got things started with a convincing, 11-3, 11-6, 11-6 win at the top spot. Peter G. Riley '15, David W. Bian '15 and Laura M. Wacker '13 also won in straight sets against their respective opponents during the 9-0 victory for Tech.

Hubbard and Cho picked up the only points for MIT in Friday's second match against Northeastern. Hubbard won, 11-4, 11-6, 11-7, in the first position while Cho was an 11-9, 11-6, 11-8 winner at No. 3.

The Engineers dominated the top of the ladder during Saturday's 6-3 win over Boston College, emerging victorious in five of the top six positions, with Hubbard, Cho, Riley, Bian and sophomore Abhiranjan Mitra '14 picking

After dropping a 9-0 decision to Harvard on Saturday afternoon, the Cardinal and Gray recovered to cap the weekend with an 8-1 victory over NYU on Sunday. Connor Kirschbaum '13 was particularly dominant, surrendering just two points in a three-set win (11-0, 11-2, 11-0).

MIT will travel to Amherst College next Saturday, Dec. 10 for its final match of the semester before taking off for final exams and winter break. The Engineers and Lord Jeffs will meet at 11:00 a.m. on Saturday.

UPCOMING HOME EVENTS

Saturday, December 10

Women's Basketball vs. Mount Holyoke

2:00 p.m., Rockwell Cage

Field Hockey honored

Silva, Klauber, McShane earn N.E. awards

By Greg McKeever

DAPER STAFF

Following a banner season, in which she led her team to the national quarterfinals and its second NEWMAC tour-



nament championship in three years, MIT head coach Cheryl Silva was named the New England East regional Coach of the Year by the National Field Hockey Coaches Asso-

ciation (NFHCA) on Wednesday. Silva, who received similar accolades in 2009, helped the Engineers win a program record 19 games, including a pair in the NCAA Division III tournament, to advance within one game of the final four.

Silva's squad compiled a 19-4 record overall, including a 6-2 mark in NEWMAC play, to earn a share of the conference's regular season crown. The Cardinal and Gray secured its second NEWMAC tournament title in three years in dramatic fashion, with a 2-1

come-from-behind, overtime win over Mount Holyoke in the finals. Silva was tabbed as NEWMAC Coach of the Year following the championship.

For the first time in program history, Tech hosted an NCAA tournament game, defeating Husson University, 7-0 in the opening round. The Engineers then downed Denison University, 4-1, in round two before falling to reigning national champion, Bowdoin College.

MIT was among the national statistical leaders in a number of categories, ranking fifth in Division III in scoring at 4.24 goals per game and sixth in goal differential (+2.99 per game). Kameron L. Klauber '12 led the country in assists per game and was eighth nationally in

Klauber was tabbed as the Regional and NEWMAC Player of the Year and was a first team All-America honoree. Molly E. McShane '13 was tabbed to the third team All-America and four of Silva's athletes received an Academic All-Conference distinction.

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- Community Carols and Hymns
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- Cross Products, MIT a cappella
- Coro Allegro, Boston LGBTA Chorus
- Mark Roberts, Organist
 - ... plus paperless, strings, and a student quartet!

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Men's Basketball stays undefeated with 90-47 win over UMass Boston

"Shaq-and-Kobe" combo of Hollingsworth, Karraker dominate

By Shri Ganeshram SPORTS STAFF

Last Tuesday, the MIT's Men's Basketball team snagged an easy

(90-47) victory over UMass Boston. The Engineers' James D. Karraker '12 led the team to victory with nine 3-pointers, set-



ting an Institute record. MIT still holds the best record in the nation (9-0) and

has moved up in ranking from ninth to seventh.

In the first 13 minutes of play against UMass Boston, MIT demonstrated their ability to play championship level basketball, knocking down their shots, including five 3-pointers from Karraker, and dominating the Beacons' young offense with a five-man defensive game and excellent transition defense. From that point on, MIT cruised, slowly increasing their lead as the game moved on. After establishing such a lead, MIT used the advantage as an opportunity to train its bench, with the team's bench players on the floor for a combined 71 minutes. The bench contributed a total of 19 rebounds, 18 points, and nine assists.

The Beacons were unable to hold the powerful "Shaq-and-Kobe-like" combination of Noel Hollingsworth '12 and Karraker, who combined for 47 points, Karraker taking and making solely 3-point shots (nine of 15 from beyond the arc) and Hollingsworth primarily hitting from close range or in the paint. The rest of the team supported the strategy, setting picks and moving around the opposition so that one of these two players could be open. William E. Bender '12 had quite a strong overall performance, scoring 13 points while also delivering five assists, two steals, and two blocks. Mitchell H. Kates '13 had a good game as a point guard, most notably for his five assists and four steals.

MIT has maintained a solid performance in every game this season thus far. William F. Dickson '14 says that the success the team had thus far is a result of the team's "family atmosphere and the attitude that everyone brings



Noel Hollingsworth '12 takes a layup through UMass Boston's defense.

to practice every day." It's hard to argue that the Engineers aren't a family, seeing how they shared the ball against UMass Boston Tuesday night, delivering 27 assists for 32 field goals made, an incredibly high assist-to-goal ratio.

The Engineers haven't lost a game yet and are playing ball consistently well, averaging a 53.8 field goal percentage, 42.0 3-point percentage, 41.7 rebounds per game, and 19.4 assists per game.

One can only wonder how far this MIT team will go. Andrew M. Acker '15 says the team's eyes are on the prize — "the team's goal for the season is a national championship. We have already won league championships and received national tournament bids. Those are secondary goals to winning the whole thing."

MIT will next be playing at home against Wheelock College on Dec. 14 at 7 p.m.